Special Issue

Genetic Diversity and Breeding Strategies for Improving Yield in Common Bean

Message from the Guest Editors

Human population growth demands more productive agriculture, which in turn depends on crop plants adapted to high-yielding systems. Additionally, shifting human consumption from animal-based foods to a more plant-based diet will require more protein-rich crops. Therefore, in the short term, more legumes like common bean (Phaseolus vulgaris L.) are the best option. Common bean is the most important food legume crop worldwide, and is a valuable source of high-quality protein, fiber, micronutrients, vitamins, and antioxidants. The species also contains a large amount of genetic variation, and two main gene pools (Andean and Mesoamerican). One of the main objectives of the common bean breeding programs is to develop high-yielding cultivars with better quality. There is a need to assess the diversity of the species and use breeding tools for the development of productive cultivars to address global challenges that affect food security, sustainability, and adaptation to climate change. This Special Issue will host both review articles and original research articles covering both traditional breeding approaches and the use of modern genomics-assisted breeding methods.

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